

# ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

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THE ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY SINCE 2003

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## PARISH TEAM

Fr. George Kibura Njuguna, IMC – Pastor StAndrewsET@archtoronto.org

Fr. Timothy Kinyua Gatitu, IMC – Associate Pastor

Rev. Mr. Joseph Owusu-Afriyie – Permanent Deacon

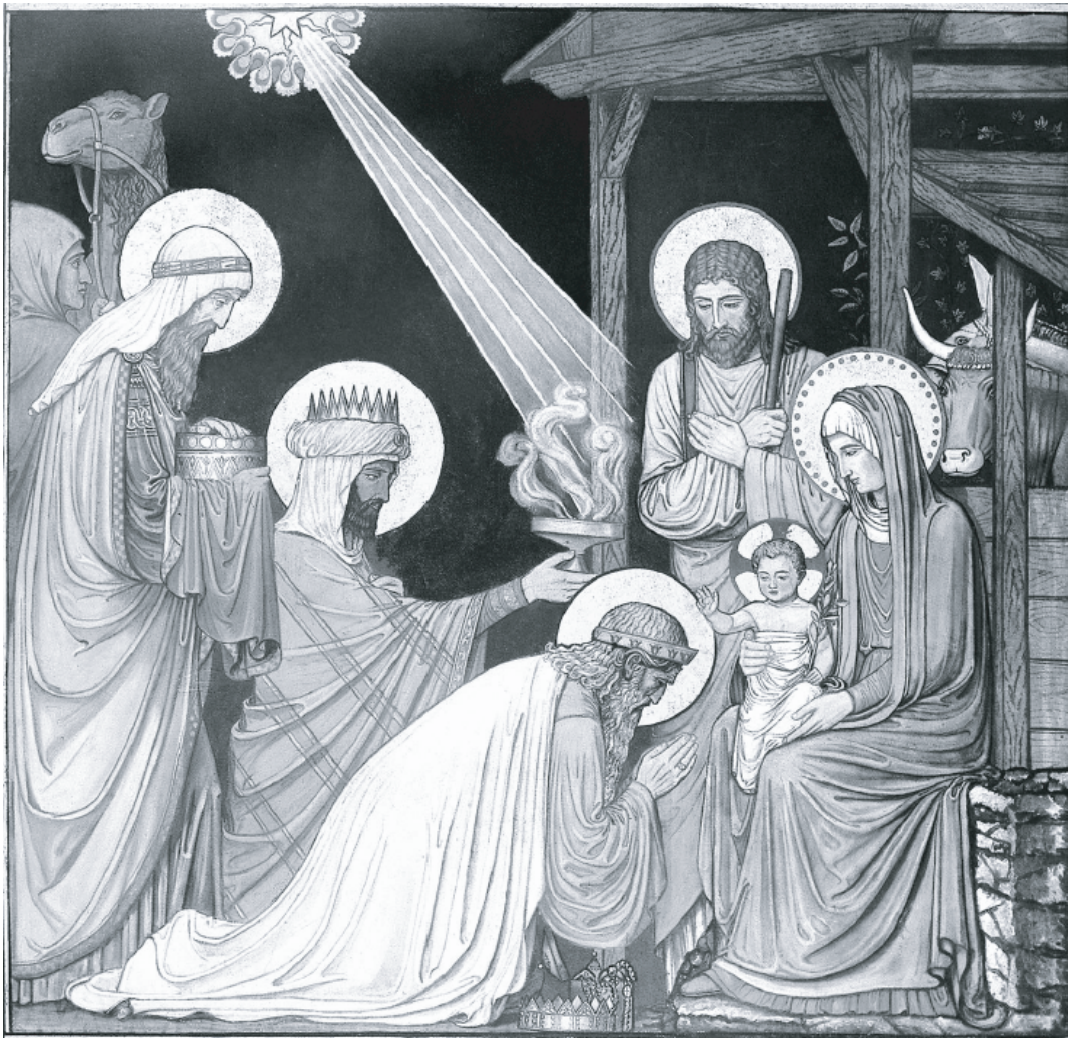
Fr. Alex Osei CSSp – Ghanaian Community

Mr. Martins Igbino – Parish Council

Mrs. Mina Moraes – Finance Council

Ms. Carolina Chavez – Parish Office standrewparish.office@gmail.com

Ms. Sharanka Prince Yogarajah – Youth Coordinator sprince@archtoronto.org



*Feast of the Holy Family*

**Welcome home to St. Andrew's**  
**The Family as a Communion of Love**

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Luke 2:39-40 (Gospel Year B)

Today we honor family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families.

By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of in the Scripture very little. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little.

The line from today's Gospel quoted above does, however, give us some insight worth pondering. First, we see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord..." Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord.

The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives.

Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfill this duty of love?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a model for us all.

"mycatholic.life"

**LET'S COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AND DECORATE OUR CHRISTMAS TREE**

This Christmas season, we invite you to join us in a special act of love and kindness. We will be decorating our Christmas tree with winter accessories **(BRAND NEW)**—scarves, hats, gloves, and socks**(ONLY)**—that will later be donated to the **COVENANT HOUSE** to help those in need during the cold months ahead.

We encourage you to bring your donations to the church and hang them on the tree. It's a beautiful way to share the warmth of the season with those who need it most.



**Sharing is Caring**

Covenant House is a large, 501 non-profit charitable organization in the Americas, whose goal is to provide safe housing and holistic care to youth ages 16-21 experiencing homelessness and survivors of human trafficking.

**Thank you for your generosity and support. God bless us all.**

*New Year's Schedule*

**TUESDAY DEC. 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE**

- 8:00PM - NEW YEAR'S VIGIL MASS

**WEDNESDAY JAN. 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY**

- 8:00 AM (ENGLISH)
- 9:30 AM (ITALIAN)
- 11:00AM (ENGLISH)
- 12:30PM (ENGLISH)
- 2:00PM (TWI)
- 5:30PM (SPANISH)

**ON THURSDAY JAN 2 - MASS AT 8:00 AM ONLY - NO EVENING MASS**

**DONATIONS 2024**

As we approach the end of the year, we want to remind you that any donations you wish to be included in your 2024 contribution record should be made by December 31st. Donations received in December will be credited to the current year. We appreciate your continued support and commitment to our parish community. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

**WEEKLY LITURGY ~ MASS INTENTIONS**

† = For the soul of    ♥ = Special Intention

**Saturday, Dec 28 - The Holy Innocents, martyrs**

8:30 am - † Julian and Emmanuel Santiago, by Delos Reyes family  
 - Special Intention and blessings for Ebisan M. Oteri, by family  
 - † Amy Davern, by Eveline and family  
 - Thanksgiving, by family

5:30 pm - In thanksgiving to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, by Mary

**Sunday, Dec 29 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8 am - Thanksgiving for Victor Ofeimun on his birthday, by Marcellina  
 9:30 am - *(Ita.Mass)* † Pietro, Giulio, Sandra and Giacinto Di Massimo,  
 by family

11 am - For the people of the Parish

12:30pm - † Margaret Mary Njabe, by Ekwelle family

2 pm - *(Twi Ghana)*

5:30 pm - *(Span.Mass)* † Mercedes Pulla, by José Pulla

**Monday, Dec 30**

8 am – Thanksgiving for the year, by Florencia Champion

7pm - † Nicola and Maria Sgotto, by Maria Persanpieri

**Tuesday, Dec 31**

8 am – Thanksgiving for all blessings received, by Duraisamy family

7 pm – *(No Mass)*

8 pm – **New Year's Mass**

**Wednesday, Jan 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – New Year's Day**

8 am - † Fr. Julian and Emmanuel Santiago, by Delos Reyes family

- Thanksgiving for the New Year, by Amonia-Jasper

9:30 am - *(Ita.Mass)*

11 am - For the people of the Parish

12:30pm – Special Intention for Susy Chai, by Eveline

2 pm - *(Twi Ghana)*

4 pm - *(Iraqi Mass)*

5:30 pm - *(Span.Mass)*

**Thursday, Jan 2 – St. Basil de Great & Gregory Nazianzen**

8 am - For peace in the world & for Pope Francis, by Broadbelt family

7 pm - *(No Mass)*

**Friday, Jan 3 – Holy Name of Jesus**

8 am – Thanksgiving, by Mary

7 pm – For Anne Clara on her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, by family

**Saturday, Jan 4**

8:30 am - † Gertrude Morgan, by Alma and family

5:30 pm – † Theresa, Augustine and Mae Choong, by family

**Sunday, Jan 5 - Epiphany of the Lord**

8 am - † David Chapman, by friends

9:30 am - *(Ita.Mass)*

11 am - For the people of the Parish

12:30pm - † A.T. Mathew, by Jacob Mathew and family

2 pm - *(Twi Ghana)*

5:30 pm - *(Span.Mass)*



The 2025 donation envelopes are ready for pick up in the Church or you can also pick them up in the office during regular hours. Please remember to confirm that they are yours by verifying the number, name and address.

*A Prayer for a Family*

O dear Jesus, I humbly implore You to grant Your special graces to our family. May our home be the shrine of peace, purity, love, labor and faith.

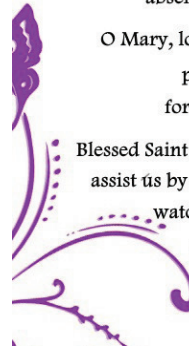
Dear Jesus, to protect and bless all of us, absent and present, living and dead.

O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus, and our Mother pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world.

Blessed Saint Joseph, holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life.

watch over our home at the pillow of the sick and the dying.

*Amen.*



*Happy New Year*

GOD IS ALL YOU NEED

let spirituality  
 be your new years resolution  
 may God bless you  
 we wish you the happiest of years  
 God is all you need to succeed

*January 11-12*

*After the Saturday Mass and all Sunday Masses*

**Handicraft Holy Land Christians**

will be selling unique hand-carved olive wood religious art pieces made by Christian families living in Bethlehem.

We are pleased to announce that on January 4-5, Paul from "Handicraft Holy Land Christians" will be visiting our parish.

Sir Sebastien Cardinal, Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and his team will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land. In addition, she will convey the urgent need for our prayers, as well as our tangible support.

Available for purchase will be many unique hand carved religious art pieces, crafted from olive wood, and made by Christian families living in Bethlehem. The purchase of these items is a beautiful way to connect with the Holy Land, express our faith through giving meaningful gifts, and support to a local economy that helps keep a Christian presence in the Holy Land.

May God Bless you for your generosity, for your help and for your prayers.

Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

Cash, debit, credit card and cheque accepted.

You can visit and support at : [HolylandChristians.ca](http://HolylandChristians.ca)

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